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SUPPLIED
FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/56.

FROM Amman.

No. 10110/6

Dated 1st July.

Received in Registry— 11th July.

Taufig Tougan.

Encloses copies of letters to B.M.E.O., Fayid, and the Arab News Agency, Cairo.

References

EE1826/33

98513

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

MINUTES

CW 14/7

E. Dept. HAP 16/7

African Dept. Why 17/7

41070

CONFIDENTIAL

10110/6

British Legation,

Amman.

1st July, 1952.

EC 1826/33

Dear Chancery,

Your 107/3/2 of 12th May, 1952.

2. Taufiq Touqan is a Jordanian from Nablus, well known to us, and the Arab Refugee Executive Committee is, so far as we know, a figment of his imagination.

3. During a visit of Touqan's to Cairo in April he succeeded in imposing his claims on the Arab News Agency, who, without making any check, published them in full. This, we think, is the origin of the reports in the press.

4. We cannot do better than send you a copy of the letter we wrote to the Arab News Agency recently on the activities of Touqan, who is now back in Jordan living comfortably on a sum of money given him by King Idriss of Libya, ostensibly for the refugees.

5. We are sending copies of this letter to the addressees of yours.

Yours ever,

Chancery.

British Middle East Office,
Political Division,
G.H.Q. M.E.L.F. 17.

CONFIDENTIAL.

British Legation,

10110/1

Amman.

24th April, 1952.

Dear Little,

Press circles in Amman are somewhat ruffled by the material which you have been sending out about the activities of Tewfiq Touqan. I am therefore writing you a few lines to put you in the picture about him.

Touqan, about whose mental stability most people have grave doubts, is a local busy-body with a plausible tongue and a vivid imagination. He has at long intervals produced a sheet of newscript which he calls Ad Diar al Muqaddasat (I have seen about four issues during the 1½ years I have been here) which has a circulation as illusory as its editor's capabilities, and contains a series of vivid rumours described as news. He has no standing with the local press, and is an infernal nuisance to the government.

He went to Benghazi (much against our wishes) and was indeed the subject of a telegram(10209/3) of warning to our Legation there. I am not surprised that he has now turned up in Cairo.

If you take my advice, you will believe nothing he says and get rid of him as quickly as possible.

Your local representatives of A.N.A. have asked for my advice in this matter and I am therefore taking advantage of their request to send you this friendly warning.

Yours ever,

Sgd. S.H. Dearden.

Tom Little, Esq.,
Arab News Agency,
Cairo.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/57

FROM Mr Coulding, Board of Trade, to Miss Waterlow.

No. 24266/52
Dated 9th July.
Received in Registry— 15th July.

Resettlement in Iraq.

Encloses copy of a note which is being circulated to the members of the Export Group for the Constructional Industry.

Last Paper

Reference

EE1826/50.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Ltr to Sir A. MacTaggart from Miss Waterlow 21 July.

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

(Minutes)

CW 18/7

See with

A) Sir A. MacTaggart, to Miss Waterlow. dy 25/7/52.

CW 29/7

37613

TRAfalgar 8855
Telephone No. ~~Whitehall 5140~~
Extension [redacted]
Our Ref. C.R.E. 24266/52.
Your Ref. [redacted] 1826/50.
Telegraphic address:
~~Colasta, Sowest~~, London.
Advantage, Parl,

BOARD OF TRADE
Commercial Relations
and Exports Department,
~~I.C. House~~,
Horse Guards Avenue,
~~Millbank~~,
London, S.W.1.

9th July, 1952.

E1829/57.

Dear Miss Waterlow,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd July, about the employment of refugee labour in Iraq. I enclose a copy of a note we have asked the Export Group for the Constructional Industry to circulate to their members. This will not get to Balfour Beatty, but you have your own contacts with them.

Yours sincerely,

R. G. COULDREY.

Miss C. Waterlow, M.B.E.,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Iraq: Recruitment of Labour

1. It is understood that in view of the probable shortage of the skilled and semi-skilled labour required in Iraq for the execution of the Development Programme, the Iraqi Government has agreed to admit into Iraq Arab refugees at present under the care of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (U.N.R.W.A.) for work for which Iraqis are not available.

2. It is hoped that United Kingdom contractors at work in Iraq will give close consideration to the possibilities of drawing on the large pool of Arab refugee labour. Employment, even for a temporary period, for the at present almost wholly unproductive refugee population, might appreciably reduce the cost of their maintenance which the United Kingdom shares with other United Nations members.

3. Firms who are interested in employing refugee labour should contact the Placement Officer at the U.N.R.W.A. office in Bagdad.

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

Draft OUTFILE July, 1952.

~~File~~ E E 1826/57.

100.

I am writing to you on the question of the employment of Arab refugee labour on the works which your firm is carrying out in Iraq.

The Iraqi Prime Minister has recently informed Mr. Blandford, the Director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees, of his agreement ~~with~~ to contractors who are carrying out major projects in Iraq employing Arab refugees to undertake skilled and semi-skilled work for which Iraqis are not available. He told the Director that he realised that there would very soon be a shortage of such labour for development work in Iraq and he also agreed that individual refugees trained by the Agency in technical skills could be admitted into the country.

The Agency now have a Placement Officer in Bagdad who is attached to the staff of Count Knuth, their representative in Iraq. This Officer's task is to find jobs for as many refugees as possible in Iraq, the refugees being selected by the Placement Service established by the Agency at its Headquarters in Beirut.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
21 JUL 1952.
SENT TO TYPE E.C.4.
DESPATCHED

Sir Andrew MacTaggart,
Messrs. Balfour Beatty & Co.,
66, Queen Street,

As you may know, the Foreign Office attach great importance to following up all possible means of solving the tragic problem of the Arab refugees, which is one of the main obstacles to political stability in the Middle East.

Although the present Iraqi offer is limited in scope, we are very anxious that it should be followed up, particularly since it might prove to open the door in due course to a decision on the part of the Iraqis to admit refugees on a substantial scale and to allow them to settle in the country.

I might add that the Foreign Secretary takes a personal interest in the solution of the refugee problem.

We therefore very much hope that your firm will agree to co-operate in this matter by drawing on refugee labour as far as possible through the channels described above.

(C. Waterlow)

E.W 18/7

BALFOUR, BEATTY & CO., LIMITED.

66, QUEEN STREET,
LONDON, E.C.4.

EDINBURGH OFFICE:
10, MELVILLE STREET.

CODES USED
BENTLEY'S,
LIEBERS,
WESTERN UNION,
A.B.C. (5TH EDITION).

TELEPHONE NOS.
CITY 2046 (18 LINES)
EDINBURGH CENTRAL 4554/8.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
"RUOFLAB, CANNON, LONDON."
"RUOFLAB, EDINBURGH."
CABLE ADDRESS,
"RUOFLAB, LONDON."

25th July 1952

Miss C. Waterlow,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1

EE 1826/57

Dear Miss Waterlow,

I have your letter of the 21st instant, ref. EE.1826/57, and note what you say in connection with the employment of Arab refugee labour.

I can assure you of our full co-operation in this matter as far as we will be allowed to give it by the Iraq Authorities as we, like you, appreciate how important it is to get a satisfactory solution of the refugee problem, and Iraq probably offers more facilities in this direction than anywhere else in the Middle East at the moment.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Arnold Toynbee

AMMT/WH

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

1952

E 1826/58

FROM

Mr Bailey, Washington

To Miss Waterlow.

No. 11436/48/52.

Dated

Received in Registry— 25-7-52. 28-7-52

Resettlement in Jordan

Discusses the liklihood that Jordan will try to resettle economic refugees in the Yarmouk as well as refugees.

Copied) Amman, Beirut, UNRWA & Dev. Div.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

Copy to Mr O.L. Williams, Treasury, & resubmit. CW 30/7

Sir H. Knight to see.

JK 28.8.52

CW 7/8

References

EE78218/4

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8) Williams, Tsy. 2 Aug.

(Action completed) | (Index)

[illegible] 8/8 | [illegible] 10/10

Next Paper

35825

Enter

AIR BAG
CONFIDENTIAL
11436/48/52

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
25th July 1952.

E

E 1071826/68

Dear Charlotte,

Your letter EE 18218/4 of the 14th July about the Yarmuk proposal.

We spoke to the State Department. They say that they have for some time realised that the Jordan Government will almost certainly try to use the proposal for the settlement of non-refugees as well as refugees. But they do not see how in practice it can be avoided. In the first place, they are precluded by the terms of Point 4 legislation from making any conditions such as Sir Henry Knight suggested in connexion with the use of funds from that source. They could of course do so in the case of contributions to UNRWA but hesitate to demand the acquiescence of the Jordan Government in so many words lest they jeopardise Jordan goodwill, which they think is essential.

2. I suggested that it was important to see that as refugees were settled so a corresponding reduction in relief took place, since the more refugees could be settled, the quicker our liability would be disposed of. The State Department thought we were perhaps indulging in a counsel of perfection as things were in Jordan at the moment. In Syria, Blandford's negotiations pre-supposed direct advantages to both non-refugees as well as to refugees and with that example likely to be known in the not so distant future the State Department did not see how they could take such a firm stand in Jordan where it was often almost impossible to differentiate between refugees and non-refugees. They would not close their minds entirely to Sir Henry Knight's suggestion since they saw the force of it but my impression was that they would need convincing from their own people in the field. I assume that if Blandford were to make this point, it would in all probability be transmitted back to Washington and accepted.

3. I am sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Amman and Beirut, to Mr. Myers and to the Development Division of B.M.E.O. at Beirut.

Yours sincerely
Ronald Bailey

R. W. Bailey.

Miss C. Waterlow,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

12

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/59.

FROM

Mr Close, Export Group for the Constructional Industries. to Mr Evans.

No.

Dated 29.7.52

Received in Registry— 31.7.52.

Resettlement – Syria & Jordan.

The Export Group will send out a mission ~~to~~ Beirut to discuss the large development projects for resettlement.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

Copies of this correspondence sent ~~CW~~ to Sir H. Knight at Winnedon & to Mr Coulding, B. of Trade.

CW 5/8.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(1) Mr Myers, Beirut for Miss Waterlow. 2 aug.

(2) Mr Close, for Mr Richmond. 8 aug.

(Action completed) 9/8

(Index) 17/10

Next Paper

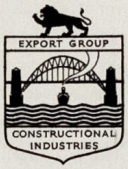
37021

Enc soon.

The Export Group for the Constructional Industries.

SECRETARY
HOWARD A. CLOSE, M.A. (CANTAB.)

PHONE
LANGHAM 4041-2-3



82, NEW CAVENDISH STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

E

HAC/EW/E.28.

29th July, 1952.

T.E. Evans, Esq., O.B.E.,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

E 1826/59

Dear Mr. Evans,

United Nations Relief and Works
Agency for Palestine Refugees.

I have pleasure in enclosing copy of a note dated the 14th July which I received from Mr. John B. Blandford, Jr., and of a letter which I have to-day sent to him.

I should be grateful if you would inform Her Majesty's representative of this proposed Mission from this Group, since I have no doubt that the members will desire to seek his advice when they are in the Lebanon.

Yours sincerely,

Howard A. Close

Secretary.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
31 JUL 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

Copy of letter from Mr. John B. Blandford, Jr., Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, Maison Unesco, Beyrouth.

14th July, 1952.

Dear Mr. Close,

Now that I am back in Beirut, may I express to you again my deep appreciation for the hospitality and helpful discussion when we were together in London.

I am now resuming negotiations with Jordan and Syria and hope soon that large projects will begin to emerge. In this connection I shall be looking forward to further word from you as to how the Export Group might be of help.

Sincerdy yours,

(Signed) John B. Blandford, Jr.

Director.

Mr. Howard A.Close, Secretary,
The Export Group for the Constructional Industries,
82, New Cavendish Street,
London, W.1, England.

COPY.

HAC/EW/E.28. 29th July, 1952.

John B. Blandford, Jr., Esq.,
Director of the United Nations Relief
and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees,
Maison Unesco,
BEIRUT,
Lebanon.

Dear Mr. Blandford,

I thank you for your letter of the 14th July. This Group has given consideration to the problem which you placed before their representatives at the meeting in London on the 27th June and, as was then suggested, is pleased to send a mission to attend upon you at the headquarters of the Agency in Beirut.

The Mission of the Group will number three or four persons from the following member firms, namely:-

Holloway Brothers (London) Limited.
John Howard & Company, Limited.
John Laing & Son, Limited
George Wimpey & Company, Limited.

The Mission will be competent to discuss all aspects of the schemes contemplated.

Among the matters upon which the Mission would desire to be informed would be the following:-

(1) Particulars of the building and civil engineering projects under consideration.

(2) Conditions of agreement under which it is proposed that such projects should be carried out.

(3) The authority with whom the Contractor would be asked to enter into contractual relations.

(4) Terms of payment and arrangements for the transfer of currency.

(5) Taxation.

(6) Questions relating to the import and subsequent re-export of contractors' plant.

(7) The employment of supervisory and key personnel from the United Kingdom.

I am asked to advise you that the Mission could arrive in Beirut towards the end of August or at the beginning of September. I shall be grateful if you will let me know whether this time would be agreeable to you and, if so, what date or dates would be most convenient to you to receive the Mission.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.

Registry
No. EE 1826/59

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

Draft.

To

Howard A. Close.
address within.
from Mr

J. Richmond.

PWalton
5/8.

Copy to BofT.
(Mr Couldrey)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
15 AUG 1952
SENT TO TYPE
REGISTRY

Wt. 11647/234 250m 7/51 V.P.Co. 51-8078

OUTFILE C

6/4.30 7/11

Since I have taken Mr. Evans' place in the Middle East Secretariat of the Foreign Office I am writing to thank you for your letter of the 9th July and its enclosures about the proposed Mission from your Group to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees. May I say how much we welcome your Group's quick and constructive response to Mr. Blandford's description of the Agency's needs. We ~~certainly~~ wish ~~your~~ the Mission all success and shall be glad to be kept informed of the outcome.

2. I am informing Sir Henry Knight, the British representative on the Agency (who is now in London on leave) and his Deputy in Beirut of your plans and I know that they will be glad to give you every assistance in their power. Sir Henry will be back in Beirut by the end of this month.

JRBM
5/8

(EE 1826/59)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

8th August, 1952.

OUTFILE

Since I have taken Mr. Evens' place in the Middle East Secretariat of the Foreign Office I am writing to thank you for your letter of the 9th July and its enclosures about the proposed Mission from your Group to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees. May I say how much we welcome your Group's quick and constructive response to Mr. Blandford's description of the Agency's needs. We wish the Mission all success and shall be glad to be kept informed of the outcome.

2. I am informing Sir Henry Knight, the British representive on the Agency (who is now in London on leave) and his Deputy in Beirut of your plans and I know that they will be glad to give you every assistance in their power. Sir Henry will be back in Beirut by the end of the month.

(J. Richmond)

Howard A. Close, Esq.,
The Export Group for the Constructional Industries,
82, New Cavendish Street,
W.1.

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.1.

(EE 1826/59)
UNCLASSIFIED

2nd August, 1952.

I enclose copies of a letter from Mr. Blandford to the Secretary of the Export Group for the Constructional Industries and of the latter's reply. This correspondence has arisen out of the luncheon which the Export Group gave Mr. Blandford at our instigation when he was here at the end of June.

We hope that Mr. Blandford will respond favourably to the Group's offer to send a mission to Beirut in a month's time. We should be grateful for your comments and glad if you would prepare the ground in any way you see fit. The Secretary of the Group has suggested to us that the mission will wish to call on H.M. Minister on arrival in Beirut. They should also, we suggest, meet Bill Crawford and other members of the Development Division of the B.M.E.O.

(C. Waterlow) (Miss).

O. Myers, Esq.,
British Legation,
Beirut.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E ≡ 1826/60

FROM

Mr Chapman Andrews, Beirut

No. to Mr Ross.

Dated 1825/11/52.

Received in Registry— 1. 8. 52. 5. 8. 52.

Refugee resettlement.

On 25th July he received a deputation of representatives of Arab Refugee Committees in Lebanon, headed by Dr Izzet Tanous.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

See EE 18211/85

ew 9/8

References

EE18211/82.

EE1826/65

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) (Index)

14/10

Next Paper

34465

BRITISH LEGATION

BEIRUT.

CONFIDENTIAL

(1825/11/52)

1st August, 1952.

E 1826/60

Dear Archie,

I have read with great interest Furlonge's letter to you of the 24th July about the prospects of refugee settlement, particularly in regard to the present attitude of the refugees themselves.

2. It so happened on the 25th July that I received a deputation headed by Dr. Izzet Tannous of the representatives of the Arab Refugees Committees in the Lebanon. Other members were Said Beidas, Faiz el-Haj, Nazmi Anabtawi and Nicola Durr. I expect you remember Dr. Tannous' "statement" before the ad hoc political committee of the United Nations in January last.

3. He asked whether any developments had occurred in the thinking of the Western Powers and particularly Great Britain in the matter of obtaining justice for the refugees. He then proceeded to enlarge on the rights and wrongs of the case going back to the year one. I told him that I was not concerned with the rights and wrongs of this unhappy case though I was deeply concerned as a human being at the miseries the hundreds of thousands of refugees were enduring, and I was as anxious as they were, perhaps more so, to see this problem resolved. I had received them because they claimed to be representative of refugee committees in the Lebanon and my business was to represent the United Kingdom in the Lebanon. I could not take up the cudgels on the part of the refugees as a whole nor could I directly represent their interests with the Lebanese Government. There was in fact very little that I personally could do. I thought Dr. Tannous and his friends would be better advised to address themselves to U.N.R.W.A. Since, however, they had come, I would like to offer them a word of advice, namely that they should concern themselves less with what they thought to be the rights and wrongs of the refugees and less with efforts, which were incapable of fulfilment, to secure their return to their original homes in Palestine, and more, far more, with alleviating the lot of the refugees in the places where they now were and more with the Arab Governments themselves in an effort to persuade these Governments to accept the principle of re-settlement.

4. This caused something of a stir. Dr. Tannous assured me that even if the Arab Governments went down on their hands and knees to the refugees and begged them to settle down in the various Arab countries, the refugees themselves would not accept. They had right on their side, and if right were trodden underfoot, the United Nations itself would prove a broken reed and humanity would be plunged once again into the miseries and horror of another world war. The Arab refugees were conscious of the vitally significant rôle they were playing in the destiny of mankind. Rather than surrender their right, rather than allow wrong to triumph, they would perish. He even went so far as to say that Jerusalem had witnessed 2,000 years ago a sacrifice which may have seemed to many present unavailing at the time, but which had shown the whole world the way to salvation. I mention this to show how exalted these people can become.

/5.

A.D.M. Ross Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

5. I repeated my advice to them to concentrate on a practical solution and I recalled to them the old epitaph:

"Here lies the body of Jonathan Day
Who died maintaining his right of way.
He was right dead right as he sped
along
But he's just as dead as if he'd
been wrong."

My concern, as a human being, was that they refugees should remain alive and be properly established in conditions that would enable them to lead self-respecting and useful lives But all present chimed in to assure me that re-settlement was to be ruled out because even though they, or any other committee, or individual, should recommend it the refugees themselves would reject it. Dr. Tannous asserted that Hajji Amin (whom he referred to as "the Grand Mufti") had himself tried last year to persuade the refugees of the benefits of a re-settlement plan but had been howled down. His representative in the Lebanon had thereafter been afraid to visit some of the camps.

6. I asked whether there was anything new in all this. I knew that many refugees had been talked into opposing re-settlement, but I could hardly belive, given the miserable conditions under which they were living, that the majority would deliberately reject re-settlement on altruistic grounds if a definite project offered them early and reasonable hope of bettering their lot. To this the reply was that there was nothing new in the movement but it had through the years become more intense. I could now take it, whether I liked it or not, that feeling on the subject was universal among the refugees and was so intense that no Arab leader dared attempt to change it for fear of his life.

7. I should not have reported all this at such length had it not chimed in so appropriately with what Furlonge says. I am sending copies of my letter to the recipients of Furlonge's.

Yours ever,

Anthony Eden

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/61

FROM

Mr Samuel Damascus.

to Mr Ross.

No. 18202/109/52.

Dated

Received in Registry— 1.8.52. 6.8.52.

Resettlement in Syria.

Record of a discussion with the American Chargé d'Affaires & the French Counsellor on the Syrian attitude to the resettlement of the Palestine refugees.

Last Paper

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes)

JWBR 14/8

E. Dept.

a further welcome sign of anglo-French-american co-operation.

Peter Rhodes 15/8

EW 15/8

(Action completed) 8/8

(Index) 14/10

Next Paper

37021

E E 1826/61

18202/109/52

British Legation,

CONFIDENTIAL.

DAMASCUS.

1st August, 1952.

My dear Ross,

The American Chargé d'Affaires recently suggested that the French Counsellor and I should discuss with him Syria's attitude to the settlement of the Palestine refugees as he was becoming depressed at the lack of results of Blandford's efforts. We met on the 31st July and were told by the American secretary concerned that the Syrian authorities had just informed UNRWA that they have made available 2,000 dunums of state land in the Homs area on which UNRWA may now make a start with settling some of the refugees now in Syria. It also seems that the Syrian Government have at last appointed a representative to work with UNRWA in arranging such re-settlement schemes as may be approved: apparently Blandford had been trying for some time to get the Syrians to make such an appointment.

2. Although this appears to be a start, we were all conscious of the fact that there is a long way to go and that even now it is only the refugees already in Syria with whom a beginning is to be made. In discussing the old problem whether Syria really meant to accept large numbers of refugees from the outside we agreed, on the basis of the scraps of information that had come to us, that in view of the large sums of money that they would get their hands on, the Syrian authorities would genuinely like to accept considerable numbers of refugees. On the other hand there was no doubt that they were nervous of their own public opinion and of opinion in the other Arab states. The Minister for Foreign Affairs told me a few days ago that he had been discussing the settlement of refugees with the Lebanese authorities and that in his opinion the Lebanon could make a contribution by settling a number of refugees in the country behind Tripoli where there was scope for the intensive cultivation of olives and fruit trees. The French Counsellor had had similar information and according to him it was the Syrians who had approached the Lebanese and urged them to begin re-settlement so that they would then share with Syria the onus of taking a step which might arouse unpopularity.

3. The French Counsellor also gathered that at his last interview with Shishakli Blandford had taken a somewhat tougher line than he normally does: he had apparently impressed on the Colonel that for all their talk there was not a single concrete gain to show and that if the Syrians expected more money to be contributed they would have to give him, Blandford, something to show for it. The American Chargé d'Affaires thought that this was so. The French Counsellor suggested that, without of course antagonizing the Syrians, Blandford should be encouraged to be firmer in his dealings with them and I supported this view.

4. At this point the discussion turned on the Yarmuk scheme to settle an impressive number of refugees in Jordan, but we all felt that, as the scheme depended on the Syrians giving permission for the construction of a key dam, they might well sabotage a scheme which would reduce their own value in the eyes of the powers who are trying to settle the refugee problem. None of us was very hopeful that the Syrians would fail to see and utilize this advantage.

A.D.M.Ross, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

/5....

5. The French Counsellor wondered whether there was any possibility of arranging the re-settlement of any appreciable number of refugees outside Syria and outside the Yarmuk scheme in order to frighten the Syrians into believing that Blandford's money might be spent somewhere else if they did not make up their minds soon. I know of no such possibilities but if there are any the idea is clearly a good one.

6. Our conclusions (which are not, I fear, very original) thus were that the permission which we understand has been given to make a start in the Homs area is a most encouraging sign but that Syria is still teetering on the brink and looking over her shoulder to see whether anyone else can be found willing to join her in the plunge. We also thought that a firmer tone on the part of Blandford would be useful and that any opportunity should be grasped of showing the Syrians that by not making up their minds they are running the risk that we may find other regions where the money available may be spent. Unfortunately Syria's ability to sabotage the Bunger scheme prevents us using this argument in connexion with the possibilities in Jordan.

7. I am sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Amman, Beirut, Alexandria, Washington, Paris and Tel Aviv, to Myers and to the British Middle East Office, Fayid

Yours ever

Ian Samuel

(A.C.I.Samuel)

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/62.

FROM

Mr Myers,
Beirut
to Miss Waterlow

No. OHM/N/1.

Dated 29. 7. 52.

Received in Registry— 6. 8. 52.

Resettlement of tribesmen.

Encloses a copy of his latest note to Mr Blandford on the resettlement of tribesmen.

Last Paper

References

49
44
39

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes)

Mr. Myers' proposals, which involve rehabilitating quickly & at comparatively very little cost (that of providing tents & a small number of sheep per family) up to 25,000 refugees, seem to me well worth pursuing. We might look at this again in, say, a month's time.

E Waterlow
15/8.

I am myself very doubtful of the practicability of this, but Glubb's views must be decisive.

B.V. 1 mth.

[illegible]
16/8

[illegible]
15/10

(Action completed) [illegible]

(Index) [illegible] 10/10

Next Paper

34465

(OHM/N/1)

CONFIDENTIAL 26th July, 1952.

Dear Blandford,

Here are the comments I promised on Marsack's papers describing his work in Jordan. He has obviously worked hard on the subject in the short time he was there and I am by no means as pessimistic about the results as he and Conrad appear to be.

2. To save time and words I will refer to the documents as follows:-

1. Shuhaiba's paper of 2nd June, 1951, "Bedu of the Nejeb"
2. Statistics Department compilation oftribes
3. My paper of 15th February, 1951, to yourself and Adcom.
4. My paper of 27th August, 1951, to yourself and Adcom.
5. My paper of 24th March, 1952, to yourself.
7. My paper of ? June, 1952
8. My paper of 14th June, 1952
9. Myers-Keen-Harlé correspondence and Arid Zones UNESCO report, 12th November, 1951-18th January, 1952
10. Marsack's account of meeting on 1st July, 1952
11. Marsack's account of meeting on 3rd July, 1952
12. Marsack's summary of 13th July, 1952
13. Marsack's Bedouin Resettlement Project No. 1
14. Marsack's Bedouin Resettlement Project No. 2
15. Marsack's account of interview with Glubb 13th July, 1952
16. Marsack's final summary

and I have attached them in a folder in that order for your convenience.

3. Nothing is changed by the opinion now held by the Agency that we have no true nomads on our ration rolls (12), as this was part of the original theses (3, p.1) "It is extremely improbable that UNRWA has as many as 1,000 Badû, if any", and (5, p.1) "UNRWA is unlikely to have on its lists any true nomads or Badû". This opinion was partly based on a study of such lists as were available of tribes, and largely on the views of Glubb during a preliminary discussion. I suggest nevertheless that a note should be sent to Gaza asking them to check to see if they have any of the Luhaiwat or the Sayyidiyin on their lists of tribes. (The listing of tribes at Gaza, though incomplete, is moderately useful.) These two tribes were the only two nomadic Qabâ:il of South Palestine (3, App.A p.iii). (One family of Sayyidiyin at least was registered in Jordan.)

4. One of the original ideas was that the semi-sedentary and semi-nomadic people could be settled according to their old ways, with a small plot of agricultural land and with flocks or herds for them to earn the rest of their living (3, p.2 to 3; and 5, p.1 and 2). This is now also the view of Marsack and Glubb (12, p.1). It should, I feel be followed up with vigour both in Jordan and Libya. In the former because of the saving of land it will afford us and in the latter because it fits in with the general way of life there and because if tribesmen go they will probably agree better with their neighbours and have a better standing in an almost entirely tribal population.

/5.

The Honourable John B. Blandford, Jr.,
Director,
U.N.R.W.A.,
Beirut.

5. As a result of your request to me in mid-March to see if we could get any of the tribesmen off our rations by giving them flocks and doing something to improve the pasturage I suggested (5, p.1) that "it might be possible to persuade a tribe to revert back from semi-sedentarism to semi-nomadism" which is exactly the plan proposed by Marsack for 150-500 families at Al-Ummâri (14).

6. After a talk with Glubb I became hopeful that some might be converted back to true nomadism. This was certainly his view at that time as he spoke of giving the people the stock and sending them off, and of there being no difficulty about land rights as the local tribes were used to others wandering over their grazing lands as the Sa'udis are doing this year. When I questioned his figure of 10-12 sheep a family as against the 30-50 I had got from other sources he replied in a letter "Of course I only suggested 12 sheep per tent because I did not think that there would be enough money for all. Thirty sheep per tent would be better ..... if we happened to have good rains next winter there would be grazing for all". This seems to me to demonstrate clearly that he envisaged a purely nomadic way of life though I understand from Marsack that he now says that he suggested 12 sheep because he thought the people were to have agricultural land as well. I do not consider that his change of view is "fairly conclusive" (16, p.1). I have a great respect for his knowledge of tribes but I feel that in the case of the Beer-Sheba tribes something more is needed before we write off your plan. Part of the 'Azazma tribe lived between the Sayyidiyin and the Luhaiwat (2, map) and it seems to me reasonable to suppose that some sections of this tribe may have remained sufficiently nomadic to be able to survive in the desert if properly equipped. There appear to be two ways of finding this out:-

(a) to write to the ex-District Commissioners of Beer-Sheba at the end of the Mandate; and

(b) to make a careful enquiry at Gaza.

7. With regard to the question of pasture improvement the matter is still less conclusive (10 and 11, p.1). It will be seen that Glubb does not agree with Norman French that the lands are already over-grazed, nor I understand does Marsack, nor do I as the stock in Jordan are like butter barrels this year. The people do however need instruction in storage (probably mainly by sileage) and the production of the ranges needs increasing, particularly the scrub, while other sources of forage, such as Mesquite pods, need to be developed (8, App.C) - as Mooney pointed out in his forestry reports to the Jordan Government. Molohan took a vastly more optimistic view than N. French (8, E). Dayre thinks in terms of annual grasses properly controlled, while French will only consider perennials. More important still is that the French in North Africa seem to have gone a very long way indeed in developing pasture (and crops) for Arid Zones (9) and whatever kind of settlement we plan in Jordan and Syria this needs investigation.

8. Turning to the objections to further action (10) I would point out that:-

(a) As we have in all throughout the entire area only re-integrated about 200 families during a year we hardly are in a position to turn up our noses at a possible settlement of 150 to 500 families in one area.

(b) Surely the discussion about "Wholesale" or "Retail" is a commercial irrelevance. The suggestion that most of our settlement work would have to be done through an

/intermediary

intermediary body has been implicit for nearly two years But this does not mean abandonment of resettlement. There does not appear to be any a priori reason why the intermediary body should be unable to deal with the settlement of semi-sedentary people, especially with the help of the Arab Legion and Marsack. If it is not we should surely get together a body that is capable of so doing. Surely we do not want to do away with pastoral activity or use more irrigated land than we need for families? Nor do we want to build houses for people who are happy with, or would prefer tents.

(c) It is unfortunate that the plan cannot be put into operation this winter, but as the Yarmuk scheme is unlikely to put any families on the land before 1955 or 1956 there seems no reason to abandon a scheme that will settle people in 1953.

(d) In view of Glubb's change of views and the limited support he now considers that he can give, and, also taking into account his views on starting on a small scale (11, p.2) I hardly think that he would insist on including non ration beneficiaries in the first group. Moreover it should not be impossible to discover fairly quickly whether the two groups first suggested by Marsack are ration recipients, half-ration recipients, or otherwise. If they are not it should surely be possible to find others. The very fact that in the short time he was able to give to it, Marsack was able to win over two leaders to the scheme shows his ability in this direction.

9. To summarize, it is, of course, disappointing that a first rapid survey should not have found any tribal sections capable or willing to live as Badû, but the matter can hardly be considered closed. I understand that Marsack did not meet any of those 'Azazma now in Jordan and the bulk of these and the Paramount Sheikhs of most of the tribes are in Gaza. Never in my wildest moments did I imagine that a few days of discussion and investigation in Jordan would settle the question, however hard the Bedouin Officer worked, and that is why I urged that investigation should begin last summer. If we compare, for example, the number of man-hours put in on, say, the Merj Naja'a scheme and the number on this it would surely be premature to abandon it.

10. I suggest therefore the following plan of further action:

(a) The Al Ummâri plan should be passed to the body taking charge of the "retail" work in Jordan.

(b) An enquiry be made at Gaza as to whether they have Sayyidiyin and Luwaihat on their ration lists.

(c) Messrs. Leroy and Delbès should be sent to Morocco some time before the dry season comes to an end to investigate pastoral and agricultural development there.

(d) A further investigation should be made, starting in Gaza, as to whether any of the 'Azazma sub-sections are capable of living as Badû (or any of the other tribes). At the same time I will write to the ex-District Commissioners of Beer Sheba if so required.

(e) Preliminary enquiries as to whether there is a

/possibility

Enclosure

[redacted]OHM/N/1)

[redacted]IDENTIAL

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT
c/o British Legation,
BEIRUT.
29th July, 1952.

E 1826/62

Dear Miss Waterlow,

Please refer to your letter (1826/44) of the 15th July, 1952.

2. I enclose a copy of my latest note to Blandford on the subject of the resettlement of tribesmen. You will gather, although I have no copies of Marsack's papers to enclose, that they have already virtually abandoned the idea of doing anything about it.

3. With regard to your second paragraph, I am sorry if I ever gave the impression that 30,000 families could be resettled as nomads. For this particular project the highest figure that ever crossed my mind as possible was 5,000 families and this was very optimistic.

4. Quite apart from the question as to whether any of these tribesmen could be set going as true nomads, there is nevertheless a great deal of work to be done on the subject of the tribesmen in general to avoid errors and unnecessary expense when the time comes to settle them.

Yours sincerely,

O.H. Myers

(O.H. MYERS)

Miss C.M. Waterlow, M.B.E.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

possibility of moving sedentary or semi-sedentary tribesmen to Libya. (Before the question could be settled (3, p.3) some Sheikhs would have to be taken to Libya to meet the Sheikhs there.)

(f) An investigation should be undertaken to see how land settlement in Jordan can be arranged so that agricultural and pastoral lands can both be used. These need notnecessarily adjoin each other if there be some forage at the former. In Cyrenaica the tribes passed along special lanes from their grazing lands in the interior to their homes on the coast.

(g) A further enquiry as to what numbers could be accommodated in tents. (At present housing costs the saving would be about 60%.)

(h) I trust that the Agency having accepted my thesis that the refugee tribesmen are not Badû will not fall backwards and claim that they are all only fellahîn.

11. I would like to add that I have received a letter from the Foreign Office asking me to say that they are most interested in this project.

2 12. I enclose copies of this note for Conrad and Marsack.

Yours sincerely,

O.H. Myers

(O.H. MYERS)

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E 1826/63

1952

FROM

H.M. Minister
HELSINKI

No. 157.

Dated

Received in Registry— 1.8.52. 9.8.52.

Resettlement.

Copy of a Note Verbale No 72 to Finnish MFA of 1st August, giving details of resettlement schemes for Arab refugees.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

EW 13/8.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 9/8

(Index) 14/10

Next Paper

37021

BRITISH LEGATION,

No.1823/12/52. HELSINKI.
No. 72.
CONFIDENTIAL.

NOTE VERBALE

Her Britannic Majesty's Legation present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to the Legation's Note Verbale No. 66 of the 7th July, have the honour to submit the following additional information about the resettlement of refugees from Palestine.

As stated in the Legation's Note Verbale under reference the United Nations' Relief and Works Agency was authorised at the last session of the General Assembly to embark on a three year resettlement programme, estimated to cost £200 million (in addition to £50 million for relief). The possibility of implementing this programme depends, not only on the availability of finance, but on securing the active co-operation of the Arab States concerned. The prospects of this are now more encouraging than at any time hitherto. The Jordan Government have agreed in principle to an £11 million programme which would, it is estimated, resettle some 25,000 refugees, and the possibility of embarking on a much bigger project which might provide land for the direct resettlement for 100,000 and indirect resettlement of a substantial additional number, is being examined.

Negotiations with the Syrian Government for a large-scale resettlement programme are also now taking place. These negotiations have reached a delicate stage and it is important that they should not receive publicity. The Legation would therefore be grateful if this information could be treated as confidential.

Her Britannic Majesty's Legation avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

1st August, 1952.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

HELSINKI.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/64

FROM

B.B.C. Monitoring

No.

Dated 1. 8. 52.

Received in Registry— 11. 8. 52.

Resettlement in Iraq.

Iraq is understood to have rejected schemes for the resettlement of refugees in Iraq.

Last Paper

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Ch. Bagdad for MEJ 16 Aug.

(Minutes)

Letter to Baydad, cf. their letter on 147.

Mr Richard to see. EW 16/8

18/8

(Action completed) 18/8

(Index) 14/10

Next Paper

34092

Enc

64 = IRAQ REJECTS UNRWA PLANS FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.

E E1826/64

(ARAB NEWS AGENCY - CAIRO 1806) BAGHDAD: X THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE REJECTED SOME INDUSTRIAL SCHEMES PUT FORWARD BY UNRWA WHICH AIM AT PROVIDING WORK IN IRAQ. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY, MR. JOHN BLANDFORD, THAT IT DOES NOT APPROVE THE PLAN OF RESETTLING THE REFUGEES. NURI AL-SAID PASHA, THE THEN PREMIER, CONSIDERED THAT THE PLAN PREJUDICED THE RIGHT OF THE REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND THAT THEY MUST THEREFORE BE REJECTED. X

END. BBC. MON. 2110 EDC. 1:8

Mr H A Sudgeon
Room 72
Eastern Depot
F.O.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
11 AUG 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

EE 1826/64.
RESTRICTED.

Middle East Secretariat,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

OUTFILE

16th August, 1952.

Dear Chancery,

Your letter No. 1822/52/52 of the 18th June about the employment of Arab refugee labour in Iraq.

2. The following is an extract from a recent Arab news agency report :- "The Iraqi Governmet is understood to have rejected some industrial schemes put forward by UNRWA. which aim at providing work in Iraq. The Iraqi Government had informed the Director of the Agency, Mr John Blandford, that it does not approve the plan of resettling the refugees. Nuri Al-Said Pasha, the then Premier, considered that the plan prejudiced the right of the refugees to return to their homes and that they must therefore be rejected".

3. This statement seems to conflict with Nuri's agreement about the employment of refugee skilldd labour, reported in paragraphs 5 and 6 of your letter under reference. Possibly, however, Nuri's agreement referred only to temporary employment. We should be grateful for your comments.

4. We are sending a copy of this letter to Myers at Beirut.

Yours ever,

MIDDLE EAST SECRETARIAT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Baghdad.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/65

FROM

Mr Chapman Andrews, Beirut.

No. 462.

Dated

Received in Registry— 13. 8. 52. 14. 8. 52.

Resettlement in Syria.

Messrs Blandford & Locke met Col. Shishakly on 12 Aug. The latter agreed to an immediate start on the $30 million programme. Comments.

Last Paper

References

EE 1825/20

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Beirut 675.

16 Aug.

Mr Montague Pollock, Damascus, from Mr Richmond.

27 Aug.

Copy/ Amman, Beirut Bagdad. Cairo, Dev Div, Beirut

28 Aug.

PTO.

(Action completed) 2/9/4

(Index) 17/10

Next Paper

(Minutes)

Sep. mini. to Sir J. Bowker.

J.W.B. Richmond

E. Dept. Path 15/8

J.W.B. 15/8

See with.

A) B.B.C. Monitoring of 25 Aug.

Encouraging.

C Watson 30/8.

J.W.B. 1/9

E. Dept. Hag 3/9

See with.

A) Bailey, w/r to Mr Richmond.

(22221/109/52 of 15/9)

(Initialled)

36390

(Copy) Washington,
Paris,
Ankara.
16 Sept.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE

E E7826/65

SECRET

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 462
13th August, 1952

D. 5.36 p.m. 13th August, 1952

R. 7.40 p.m. 13th August, 1952

PRIORITY
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 462 of 13th August
Repeated for information to U.K. Del. New York
Washington
Paris
Ankara.

From Myers for Waterlow and Knight.

On 12th August Blandford and Locke met Shishakly. The latter agreed to start immediately the £30,000,000 programme for refugees in Syria, particularly a survey of water resources, but putting off indefinitely the full programme and large project referred to in my letter ACI of the 7th August.

2. Syria also asked for membership of the Advisory Commission. Locke said that it was a most interesting suggestion and that he would refer it to his colleagues.

3. Locke's personal reaction is enthusiastic, and he informs me that [gp. undec.]s' was the same, on the grounds that Syria, so far our most difficult country, will be associated with the Agency's work and so our major problem will be overcome. He had not yet seen the Turkish member. He wished to report home my personal reactions. I said that these were very mixed and that I thought the matter needed careful study.

4. The following are some first comments most of which I put to Locke:

(a) If Syria's intentions are sincere it might well bring a great improvement. The Damascus Legation informed me some time ago that Syrians cannot bear anyone operating in their territory whom they do not in some way control

(b) The other Arab states will presumably apply and we should have to accept two more, presumably Jordan and Egypt,

/to bring us to

to bring us to full strength.

(c) Pakistan would be offended though we could quote the special position of the Arab states.

(d) The self styled Refugee Leaders would start strong agitation for representation.

(e) Jordan or Egypt might send, say, the ex-Mufti.

(f) If we refuse her admission Syria will probably not cooperate in resettlement.

(g) Therefore if we accept we should first apply pressure to settle all outstanding difficulties.

(h) Should we insist on major programme agreement before acceptance?

(j) I gather from other sources that we shall probably get only third grade land for refugees as the remainder is wanted for peasants and tribal settlements. Settling this land will take long, and be costly. Should we demand to settle on private land?

5. I said Knight would probably bring your reply.

Foreign Office please pass to U.K. Del. New York, Washington and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 5, 10 and 11 respectively.

[Repeated to U.K. Del. New York, Washington and Paris].

DISTRIBUTED TO
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

ADVANCE COPIES
Head of Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

0 0 0 0

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. EE1826/65

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

Draft.

Telegram to :— Beirut.

No. 675

(Date) 16-8-52

Repeat to :—

RECEIVED IN C.B. 18 AUG 1952

En Clair.
~~Code.~~
~~Cypher.~~

Distribution :— Nil.

F.O.,

(Date) 16 AUG 1952

Despatched 3-51 P M.

[Security classification —if any]

Addressed to Beirut.

telegram No. (date)

repeated for information to

Your tel. No. 462 [of Aug. 13th. Resettlement of refugees in Syria.]

Following for MYERS.

Sir H. KNIGHT will bring instructions.

EW 16/8.

(37400) Wt.40591/176 125,000 1/49 A. & E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

12-1952-16/8/52

Registry
No. EE 1826/65.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Draft.

W.B.Montagu-Pollock, Esq., C.M.G.,
Damascus.

E. Dept.
Mr Wardrop first
23/8.

FROM :
Mr Richmond.

COPIES to :

AMMAN
BEIRUT
BAGDAD
CAIRO
B.M.E.O.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Wt. 11647/234 250m 7/51 V.P.Co. 51-8078

RECEIVED IN
DIVISION
25 AUG 1952
DESPATCHED

Middle East Secretariat,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.
August, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL.

OUTFILE

5 C.

26/2
27/12

Myers reported in his telegram No. 462 of the 13th August that, in a conversation with Blandford and Locke on the 12th August, Shishakli had made a proposal that Syria should be represented on the Advisory Commission of U.N.R.W.A.

We think that if the ~~offer~~ proposal is a genuine one, there would be considerable advantage in the association of Syria directly with the work of U.N.R.W.A. It has been discussed here by Sir James Bowker and Sir Henry Knight, and it has been agreed that, if Syria applies for admission to the Advisory Commission, we should welcome it and take the risk that her object may merely be to delay and disrupt the work of the Agency. We should, however, try to obtain from Syria in return for her admission to ADCOM. a good deal more than her agreement to the £30.m. programme which Shishakli has now approved. The minimum terms in which we think Syria should be admitted would be her clear recognition of the principle that ~~Syria~~ she should accept for settlement within her borders some refugees who are at present elsewhere. If the admission of Syria led to ~~com~~ ab plications from other Arab States, we should certainly agree to the admission of Jordan. The claims of Egypt and Lebanon are also strong but it would not be possible to admit them both without further reference to the General Assembly since the resolution establishing U.N.R.W.A. provides for the co-opting of representatives of only three other

/contributing Powers.

contributory Powers. This, however, should not prove an insuperable obstacle and the advantages of getting the Arab States publicly committed to the objects of U.N.R.W.A. would, we think, amply outweigh the disadvantages that Arab representation on ADCOM. would inevitably bring. We should have to insist before admitting any Arab representative that he should be of adequate status. A mere underling would be quite useless. We should also have to insist that the proceedings of the Commission should continue to be in French and English since these are United Nations languages and Arabic is not.

The French Embassy here have asked us our views on this proposal and have told us that their preliminary view is similar to ours. The French member of the Advisory Commission will probably be instructed to take a similar line to that of Sir Henry Knight. We have not yet received any indication of the attitude of the State Department but in view of Locke's preliminary reaction we see no reason to expect that it will be different from our own.

I am sending copy of this letter to the Chanceries at Amman, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo and Washington, Paris, Ankara, B.M.E.O.

23/8

(J.C.B.Richmond.)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

D
B.22: = SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON UN ARAB REFUGEE PLAN =

E 1826 | 65. "A" INDEXED

CA[redacted] NEWS AGENCY - CAIRO - 17.30. DAMASCUS: THE FIRST SIGN HAS APPEARED THAT SYRIA MIGHT NOT OBJECT TO THE UN PLAN FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ARAB REFUGEES. IT CAME IN A STATEMENT MADE BY THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. HE SAID: +SYRIA INSISTS ON ADHERING TO HER ATTITUDE NAMELY THAT THE REFUGEES SHOULD NO T BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS TO RETURN TO THEIR HMES AND TO BE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR LOSSES IN CONFORMITY WITH UN RESOLUTIONS. SYRIA AT THE SAME TIME DOES NOT OBJECT TO GRANTING THEM THE RIGHT OF CHOOSING A RESIDENT IN ANY ARAB COUNTRY UNTIL A SETTLEMENT FOR THE PALESTINE QUESTION IS REACHED+.

END BBC MONITORING 18.28 25/8 LF.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
28 AUG 1952

16/11.30

16/2

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(EE 1826/65)

OUTFILE

27th August, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

3 c [illegible]

C.H.C.

Myers reported in his telegram No. 462 of the 13th August that, in a conversation with Blandford and Locke on the 12th August, Shishakli had made a proposal that Syria should be represented on the Advisory Commission of United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

We think that if the proposal is a genuine one, there would be considerable advantage in the direct association of Syria with the work of U.N.R.W.A. It has been discussed here by Sir James Bowker and Sir Henry Knight, and it has been agreed that, if Syria applies for admission to the Advisory Commission, we should welcome it and take the risk that her object may merely be to delay and disrupt the work of the Agency. We should, however, try to obtain from Syria in return for her admission to ADCOM. a good deal more than her agreement to the £30.m. programme which Shishakli has now approved. The minimum terms on which we think Syria should be admitted would be her clear recognition of the principle that she should accept for settlement within her borders some refugees who are at present elsewhere. If the admission of Syria led to applications from other Arab States, we should certainly agree to the admission of Jordan. The claims of Egypt and Lebanon are also strong but it would not be possible to admit them both without further reference to the General Assembly since the resolution establishing U.N.R.W.A. provides for the co-opting of representatives of only three other contributory Powers. This, however, should not prove an insuperable obstacle and the advantages of getting the Arab States publicly committed to the objects of U.N.R.W.A. would, we think, amply outweigh the disadvantages that Arab representation on ADCOM. would inevitably bring. We should have to insist before admitting any Arab representative that he should be of adequate status. A mere underling would be quite useless. We should also have to insist that the proceedings of the Commission should continue to be in French and English since these are United Nations languages and Arabic is not.

The French Embassy here have asked us our views on this proposal and have told us that their preliminary view is similar to ours. The French member of the Advisory Commission will probably be instructed to take a similar line to that of Sir Henry Knight. We have not yet received any indication of the attitude of the State Department but in view of Locke's preliminary reaction we see no reason to expect that it will be different from our own.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Chanceries at Amman, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo Washington, Paris, Ankara and British Middle East Office.

(J.C.B. Richmond)

W.B. Montagu-Pollock, Esq., C.M.G.,
Damascus.

Enter

E E1826/65

E

RESTRICTED

AIR FREIGHT

22221/109/52

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

15th September, 1952.

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of the 13th September about the Syrian application for admission to the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief Works Agency. You mention a letter from you to Montagu-Pollock, No. EE 1826/65 of the 27th August, in which you gave your views on this question. We have not been able to trace any copy of your letter in our archives and I don't recall seeing one. Perhaps you would be so good as to let us have a copy.

Yours ever

Ronald Bailey

(R.W. Bailey)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

Already sent E.W. 19/9.

JCBR 23/9

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

~~JORDAN~~

E E1826/66

FROM

Chancery, Amman. to MES

No.

Dated 14201/73.

Received in Registry— 6. 8. 52. 20. 8. 52.

Resettlement in Jordan.

Discusses whether or not Jordan will promise to resettle only "refugees" & not to resettle her own "economic refugees."

(Speed) W. Van, Beirut, UNRWA, Dev. Dis.

Last Paper.

References.

EE1826/58
EE 18218/4

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft. Chancery Amman for MES. 29 Aug.

Corresp. Williams, Tay. 2 Sept

(Action completed.) (Index.)

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

Although it must be galling to UNRWA to put down large sums of money for developement schemes and then find them used partially for the benefit of non-refugees, I agree that we cannot hope for the cooperation of the Arab Governments on any other basis and I do not think we should pursue the attempt to make our contribution to the Yarmuk scheme (if indeed it is decided to make one) contingent on reserving this scheme for refugee settlement alone.

Dft. to Amman Chancery

J.B. Richmond
22/8

E. Dept.

I was on leave when the letter on EE18218/4 was written, but it ought to be recorded that, while we represent to the U.N. that our loan to Jordan is a contribution to refugee resettlement, the Jordan delegation last November, & their Govt, maintain

/very

26513 F.O.P.

very strongly that our loan is for their own people & not for refugees. We have, so to speak, agreed to differ with them on this ~~spe~~ point, & to press our view on them anew by demanding this guarantee would be bound to cause ill feeling besides, as Amman point out, defeating its own object. I agree with the dft.

Jas. Hunter
25/8

Sec 169.

EW 2/9.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

(14201/73)

H.M.Legation,

AMMAN.

6th August, 1952.

E

EE1826/58

E E1826/66

Dear Secretariat,

We were glad to see from Bailey's letter No.11436/48/52 of July 25th to Miss Waterlow that the State Department had reacted very much as we had to the suggestion that the Jordan Government should be urged to give a "guarantee" in regard to the resettlement of refugees only on the Yarmuk Scheme. As the State Department point out, the first essential is to secure the full cooperation of the Jordan Government in this scheme. It appears to us most unlikely that they could bind themselves to settle only "refugees" (i.e. persons in receipt of relief from U.N.R.W.A.) when there are so many other distressed and landless persons in Jordan, not to mention the "economic refugees". We feel pretty sure that Blandford, whose attitude on these matters is realistic, would not agree to attempting to pin them down on this point.

2. Moreover, it seems to us that in this matter we have to balance the advantages of getting refugees off the ration-roll against those of improving the Jordan economy by doing something for the other distressed sections of the population. The right answer, which we hope will come about in practice if the scheme is pursued, is probably to secure that the eventual benefits of the Yarmuk Scheme are shared between refugees and economic refugees.

3. We hope, therefore, that the idea of approaching the Jordan Government as suggested in the first paragraph of your letter No.EE.18218/4 of July 14th can now be dropped.

4. We are sending copies of this letter to Burrows at Washington, the Chancery at Beirut and to Myers, and to the Development Division of the British Middle East Office in Beirut.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

A.T.F.

The Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

28/4
29/4

Registry
No. EE 1826/66

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

J
C
B
R

CHC.

OUTFILE

Draft.

Chancery
Amman

E. Dept first.
[illegible] 25/8

Copy covers
Mr O.L. Williams
Treasury.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
25 AUG 1952
SENT TO TYPE 27/8
DESPATCHED

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(14487) 2/52 D.L.

Dear Chancery,

Thank you for your letter 14201/73 of 6th August.

On second thoughts we agree that it would not be wise to attempt to obtain a 'guarantee' from the Jordan Govt to resettle refugees only on the Yarmuk scheme. We see the force of the State Dept's argument about the difficulty of laying down conditions for Jordan which we cannot hope to impose on Syria and we agree that the proposal to approach the Jordan Govt as suggested in para 1 of our letter No EE 18218/4 of July 14th can now be dropped.

We are sending copies of/this

This letter to the Chancories at Washington & Beirut, ~~and~~ to ~~H~~ Sir H. Knight, and to the Developmental Division of the BMEO in Beirut.

Yours ever

M.E.S

JWBH
25/8

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(EE 1826/66)

CONFIDENTIAL.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

29th August, 1952.

Dear Chancery,

Thank you for your letter 14201/73 of the 6th August.

2. On second thoughts we agree that it would not be wise to attempt to obtain a 'guarantee' from the Jordan Government to resettle refugees only on the Yarmuk scheme. We see the force of the State Departments' argument about the difficulty of laying down conditions for Jordan which we cannot hope to impose on Syria and we agree that the proposal to approach the Jordan Government as suggested in paragraph 1 of our letter No EE 18218/4 of the 14th July can now be dropped.

3. We are sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Washington and Beirut to Sir Henry Knight, and to the Development Division of the British Middle East Office in Beirut.

Yours ever,

MIDDLE EAST SECRETARIAT.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Amman.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

E E 1826/67

PALESTINE

FROM

U.N.R.W.A.
Beirut
Comm'd.

No. AC. 100/3.

Dated

Received in Registry— 2.8.52.
21.8.52.

Resettlement

Discusses resettlement – (1) Syria.
(2) Lebanon
(3) Western Desert, including a scheme for ionisation.

Last Paper.

References.

-/61

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.) 2/9

(Index.) 17/10

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

I doubt very much if the Qattara scheme is a starter. Even if it were technically & economically feasible the point made in Myers last sentence of his para 4 disposes of it as an outlet for Palestine refugees.

J.W.B. Richmond
22/8

E. Dept.
HAP 25/8

African Dept.
RP 27/8

Nevertheless the Egyptians were prepared to agree to the resettlement of 50,000 refugees in the Sinai peninsular if the results of water surveys had proved satisfactory – which unfortunately they did not.

C Watkins
1/9.

J.W.B.
1/9

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

(AC 100/3)

CONFIDENTIAL

c/o British Legation,

BEIRUT.

2nd August, 1952.

Dear Samuel,

With reference to your letter 18202/109/52 of the 1st August which is extremely interesting, it is good news to hear that the Syrian authorities have at last made available some land which, you will doubtless have noticed, even if it is good irrigation land, will provide for only about 133 families. If the original terms on which they were to give UNRWA land have been retained, no further land is to be given until the settlement on this first lot is complete. Unless this process is speeded up it will take about 230 years to settle the 125,000 families in Syria for which the Agency has been negotiating.

2. I agree that Syria is anxious to obtain a large sum of money from UNRWA and willing to accept refugees in order to do so. But it seems at least possible that their delay is due rather to their desire to get a bigger sum than to their fear of public opinion.

3. Locke is of the opinion that the Lebanon could settle refugees if funds for development were provided, and would hardly like to refuse if this development included possibilities for their own people. As you know, the great difficulty is the religious one and I have heard the view expressed that the Lebanese authorities would be quite willing to settle numbers of Christians provided that this suggestion came from one or other of the Arab States. Is it your view that the Syrians could be persuaded to make the suggestion?

4. With regard to the query in your paragraph 5 about possibilities of settlement other than in Syria or the Yarmuk scheme the suggestion for settlement in the Western Desert which I mentioned to you is being taken up by Locke and Blandford. You may remember that it was a project put forward by this Delegation for running sea water from the Mediterranean into the Qattara Depression to provide power for a hydroelectric station. Part of the current would be used for an ionisation plant to convert half the water into fresh water for irrigation. The doubly salt remaining half of the water would be used to make salt in the depression. The question of a hydroelectric station based on water running from the Mediterranean into the Qattara Depression has been examined before and has been found not to be viable on account of the cost of tunnelling. However, no previous scheme considered ionisation. This process, it is true, normally costs too much for the water to be used for irrigation, 10 cents (U.S.) a thousand gallons, but in this case there would be cheap electricity on the spot, and if the project were financed by UNRWA, the capital and interest could be written off, so it is just possible that it might prove viable. I have already suggested to Blandford that if the Egyptians are willing even to consider it, this might prove to be the lever required. It is, of course, doubtful whether any Egyptian Government would agree to a scheme of settling large numbers of foreigners on their limited soil when they have such an overpopulation problem.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to the recipients of your letter under reference.

Yours sincerely,

(O.H. MYERS)

A.C.I. Samuel, Esq.,
British Legation,
Damascus.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/68

FROM

Legation Damascus to E. Dept.

No. 18202/116/52.

Dated 15. 8. 52.

Received in Registry— 20. 8. 52.

Resettlement in the Lebanon.

Considers that the Syrians might be persuaded to suggest ~~to~~ the Lebanese that the Christian refugees now in the Lebanon should be settled there.

(add to Mr Myers, Beirut. of 15 Aug)

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

-/67

E. Dept. [illegible] 27/8

Mr Rhodes. [illegible] 27/8

[illegible] 23/8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.) [illegible] 28/8

(Index.) [illegible] 17/10

Next Paper.

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

18202/116/52

CONFIDENTIAL.

British Legation,

DAMASCUS

15th August, 1952.

-167

In paragraph 3 of your letter AC 100/3 of the 2nd August you ask whether it is my view that the Syrians could be persuaded to suggest to the Lebanese that the Christian refugees now in the Lebanon should be settled there. It is, of course, very difficult to tell what the Syrians could be persuaded to do, but I certainly think that it would be worth while for Blandford to recommend the idea to the Syrians. If I had to guess the result, I should say that the Syrians would be willing to suggest the plan to the Lebanese provided that they could be sure that the Lebanese would not publish the story and would not ask for concessions in return, such as the repeal of Syria's discriminatory law No. 151.

I am sending copies of this letter to Eastern Department, to the Chanceries at Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Washington, Paris and Tel Aviv and to the British Middle East Office, Fayid.

A. C. I. SAMUEL

(A.C.I.Samuel)

O.H.Myers, Esq.,
United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA,
c/o British Legation,
BEIRUT.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/69

FROM

Mr Byers, Beirut.

~~to MES~~

No. AC. 41.

Dated

Received in Registry— 16. 8. 52. 27. 8. 52.

Resettlement in Jordan

Discusses the resettlement of refugees + non refugees in the Yarmuk scheme.

(Add. to Amman)

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

Copy to Mr O.L. Williams, Treasury. E Waterhouse 2/9

Mr Hunter
E. Dept. 10/9

3/9

References.

—/66

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S Williams, Tsy. 9 Sept

(Action completed.) 11/9

(Index.) 17/10

Next Paper.

26513 F.O.P.

(AC 41)

CONFIDENTIAL

c/o British Legation,

BEIRUT.

16th August, 1952.

Dear Chancery,

I refer to your letter (14201/73) of the 6th August, 1952, to Middle East Secretariat concerning the settlement of refugees and non-refugees on the Yarmuk scheme.

2. It is, of course, intended that those who own land in the Jordan Valley would receive compensatory plots under the development scheme.

3. It is further hoped that the scheme will prove of such importance to the economy of Jordan that the whole country will benefit, but I understand that the Development Division of the B.M.E.O. is somewhat sceptical about the theory that 3 persons will automatically find work for every 1 settled on the land.

4. From the point of view of Jordan, it is perfectly true that the economic refugees are at the moment more in need of help than those on UNRWA's ration rolls, but this holds good only so long as UNRWA has money for relief. Already the position with regard to relief funds is exceedingly difficult and it is urgently necessary for UNRWA to get the maximum number of people settled and off its rations rolls. For this reason, UNRWA must at least try to arrange an automatic reduction in relief as the reintegration schemes go forward.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to the recipients of your letter under reference.

Yours ever,

(O.H. MYERS)

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Amman.

14

GREEN PAPER

EE 1826/70 G

FROM F.O. Imm.
(Imm Waterlow)

No.

Dated 7 July

Received in Registry

28 Aug

Resettlement of Arab refugees.

Last Year's File

References

ADDED PAPERS

1.

2.

3.

4.

Next Year's File

EASTERN PALESTINE

GREEN PAPER

1952

EE1826/71G

FROM F. O. Inni (Mr. Ledward)

No.

Dated 15 Aug

Received in Registry

28 Aug

Resettlement of Arab refugees.

Last Year's File

References

ADDED PAPERS

1.

2.

3.

4.

Next Year's File

M1542 42120—8

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/72.

FROM

Mr Myers.
Beirut
~~Mr~~ Miss Watkinson

No. AC. 236

Dated 22. 8-52

Received in Registry— 30. 8. 52

Export Group Mission.

Mr Blandford has asked that the Mission be postponed until Sept.

Last Paper.

References.

-/59.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Let us hope this postponing will be a cautious process.

EWatkinson
3/9

Copy Brit. (Mr Goldney)

4/9

(Action completed.)

12/9

(Index.)

14/10

Next Paper.

Enter

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Legation,

BEIRUT.

E

(AC 236)

UNCLASSIFIED

22nd August, 1952.

EE 1826/72

Dear Miss Waterlow,

With reference to your letter (EE 1826/59) of the 2nd August, 1952, I asked Mr. Blandford what progress he had made in connection with the Export Group for the Constructional Industries.

2. He has replied that he has despatched the following telegram to the organization's Secretary on the 18th August:-

> "Appreciate letter. Suggest your mission postpone visit until September. Hopeful at that time current negotiations will have clarified situation. Will write further shortly. Blandford, UNRWA.".

Yours sincerely,

(O.H. MYERS)

Miss C.M. Waterlow, M.B.E.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

29

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/73

FROM Chancery, Beirut to Eastern Dept.

No. 1825/18/52

Dated 29/8

Received in Registry— 4/9

Resettlement in the Lebanon.

Fears that the suggestion that the Christian refugees now in the Lebanon should be settled there, would come up against the instinctive Lebanese sensitivity to religious communal differences

(Addsd Mr. Samuel, Damascus)

Last Paper

References

-/68

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes)

CWatkins 6/9

E. Dept.

I ~~am inclined to~~ agree that any settlement of refugees should not be allowed to get entangled in communal questions. UNRWA must avoid any suspicion of trying to alter the communal balance in any Arab country, particularly Lebanon where ~~the~~ it is so delicate.

J.W.B. Richmond 8/9

HAS 8/9.

CW 19/9.

(Action completed) 19/9

(Index) 17/10

Next Paper

36062

BRITISH LEGATION

BEIRUT.

29th August, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

(1825/18/52)

FE 1826/64

In your letter 18202/116/52 of the 15th of August to Myers you say that it would be worth while for Blandford to recommend to the Syrians that they should suggest to the Lebanese that the Christian refugees now in the Lebanon should be settled here.

2. Although I agree that this idea would be logically atractive, and although Myers has heard the idea mooted by various intelligent Lebanese I am afraid it would come up against the instinctive sensitivity of the Lebanese to religious communal differences. As you know the Moslems here feel that time and the processes of nature are on their side anyway and they do not wish to upset the delicate balance of power (in which the more prominent among them do very well) and gratuitously offend the President by suggesting that large numbers of Moslem refugees should be settled here. (This is of course quite separate from the fact that the Lebanese would in no case wish to be the first Arab State to accept by implication that the refugees could not go back to Palestine).

3. I think the re-action to absorbing only Christian refugees would be very strong. The mere fact that it was discriminatory would inflame communal strife and the Moslem leaders, including by tradition the Prime Minister, would be obliged to oppose it strongly. The Christians, including the President, would not want to risk such strife and the best course for them therefore is to resist the settlement of refugees anywhere. The only person who would profit from this situation would be the ex-Mufti.

4. Of course you know all these arguments already. I merely set them out to show that Myers' suggestion in paragraph 3 of his letter AC 100/3 of the 2nd August, despite its superficial attractions, seems to me unlikely to lead anywhere in practice.

5. I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

(Sgd.) E. A. CHAPMAN-ANDREWS

A.C.I. Samuel Esq.,
British Legation,
DAMASCUS.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/74

FROM

Sir H. Knight

Beirut

~~to~~ Mr Richmond

No. AC/100.

Dated

Received in Registry— 29.8.52. 5.8.52

Resettlement – Syria & Jordan.

Encloses drafts which Mr Blundford proposes to discuss with Syria & Jordan.

Last Paper

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [signature] 18/9

(Index) [signature] 14/10

Next Paper

(Minutes)

The dfts do not appear to commit the Syrian & Jordan Govts very deeply, but I agree with Sir H. Knight that UNRWA will not be able to get more.

The answer to the question raised by Sir H. Knight of how far they commit UNRWA to providing funds for general economic development not directly related to refugee settlement, appears to be 'not at all', though doubtless the course of events he fears may come to pass.

~~The~~ It seems to me that UNRWA has no choice, under its present programme, but to commit its reintegration funds on general development projects. If there are sound and successful they will settle some refugees even if they are not expressly reserved for refugees ~~[illegible]~~ This is much more true of Jordan than of Syria but I think it is true also of Syria.

J.W.B. Richmond 9/9

E. Dept. HRP 10/9

[signature] 12/9

36062

SECRET

AC/100

British Legation
Beirut

29 Aug 1952

E 1826/74

Dear Richmond

I have not as yet much to report, but I enclose a draft which Blandford proposes to discuss with Syria and another which he proposes for Jordan, in order to get "commitments" from those Governments before the metting of the General Assembly.

I do not think we shall get either Government to commit itself more specifically in general to the resettlement of refugees than is suggested in these drafts, and unless the agreements to specific projects can be more definite to the number of refugees to be resettled, the question arises how far UNRWA should provide funds not for the actual resettlement of refugees but for general economic development in the hopes that this will somehow resettle them, leaving open the possibility that such development will end up with most of the refugees still on the ration rolls and no funds to feed them.

Things may eventually come to this, but the question of principle will I think have to be borne in mind before UNRWA undertakes e.g. to finance the Yrmuk scheme.

I have shown the Jordan draft to Furlonge and will show the Syrian to Samuel tomorrow. I will report progress later - if any.

Yours

A Aikman

ADCOM 336

VERY CONFIDENTIAL

Preliminary Draft for Discussion Only

Revision 1
25/8/52

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations by Resolution 513 (VI) has approved a program of $ 200 million to be expended by UNRWA over a period of approximately three years for the improvement of refugee living conditions through projects initiated by Governments which make refugees self-supporting and remove them from ration rolls without prejudice to refugee interests in repatriation and compensation.

2. The Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan has broad plans for the economic development of the country, and is prepared to share the benefits of this development with refugees who are now living in the country and who have the privilege of citizenship. The Government intends to perfect its plans through an intensive survey of the Jordan economy and to establish and maintain adequate arrangements for coordination of the development program and for guiding economic activity in the interest of general economic stability and the facilitation of the development program.

3. UNRWA is prepared to reserve funds in an amount of $ [redacted] million to be expended on projects which meet the purposes of the program approved by the General Assembly and which fit into the general economic development plans of Jordan.

4. The Government and UNRWA will agree from time to time on the allocation of these funds to general categories such as water, lands and mineral resources development, industries, transportation research and vocational training. The program for $ 11 million previously agreed upon by the Government and UNRWA is considered to be merged and redistributed among the new categories of the new program agreement.

5. The Government, without prejudice to the program of improving refugee living conditions, intends to seek additional financing for its program of general economic development through grants and loans and UNRWA is prepared to cooperate as appropriate in this effort. The Government will use the net revenues of projects financed by UNRWA for additional investment in new projects for economic development.

6. The Government and UNRWA agree that, in the program of economic development, refugees shall participate in construction employment and in direct (and indirect) opportunities for self-support at least in proportion to UNRWA's contribution to the total expenditures for economic development and that the arrangements for achieving these results shall be provided for in project agreements. With respect to indirect opportunities for employment, refugees shall share equally with other citizens of Jordan.

/7. The Government

7. The Government and UNRWA agree that the real measure of success in this cooperative effort is the reduction of relief recipients and relief expenditures at the earliest opportunity and will agree upon measures and cooperate closely in activities to achieve this purpose prior to the initiation of projects under this program agreement.

8. UNRWA will advance funds, provide technical assistance and participate in the execution of projects in a manner to be described in individual project agreements between the Government and UNRWA.

9. The Government will provide necessary legislation and regulations, make available public lands and generally offer facilitating services which will expedite the completion of projects, the improvement of refugee living conditions, the reduction of relief expenditures and in every way possible assure maximum benefit to refugees from the expenditure of UNRWA funds.

---

oo:

ADCOM 337

VERY CONFIDENTIAL

S.1/982

25 August 1952

Excellency:

In accordance with the agreement reached at our recent meeting, I have the honor to submit for the consideration of your Government a draft memorandum of agreement in an amount of $ 30,000,000.

Your files will indicate that the Agency had previously submitted to Your Excellency's Government a draft general program agreement and a draft annex in the amount of $ 30,000,000. This annex has been converted to a program agreement of the same amount.

I hope, Your Excellency, that I may have the privilege of an early conference on this draft memorandum of agreement so that it may speedily be put in final form acceptable to your Government.

Sincerely yours,

John B. Blandford, Jr.

His Excellency Zafer Rifa'i,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Syrian Republic,
D a m a s c u s

VERY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations by Resolution 513 (VI) has approved a program of $ 200 million to be expended by UNRWA over a period of approximately three years for the improvement of refugee living conditions through projects initiated by Governments which make refugees self-supporting and remove them from ration rolls without prejudice to refugee interests in repatriation and compensation.

2. UNRWA agrees to reserve $ 30 million of the funds contributed to the Agency for a program in Syria which will improve the living conditions of approximately 20,000 refugee families over a period ending about 30 June 1954 in accordance with the following general categories:

	Families	Dollars
Technical training	3,000	$ 3,000,000
Industrial and commercial	1,000	1,000,000
Agricultural	16,000	24,000,000
Services (principally educational)		2,000,000
	20,000	$30,000,000

In addition, there will be available from the relief budgets over the same period approximately 4,500,000 Syrian pounds.

3. The Government of Syria agrees to cooperate in carrying out this program and will provide necessary legislation and regulations, make available public lands where available, and generally offer facilitating services which will expedite the completion of projects, the improvement of refugee living conditions, the reduction of relief expenditures and in every way possible assure maximum benefit to refugees from the expenditure of UNRWA funds.

4. The various categories of this program are to be implemented by specific project agreements entered into between representatives of the Government of Syria and of UNRWA. A project agreement will describe in detail the scope of the project, the plan of expenditure and the arrangements for construction, operation and utilization by the refugees.

JBB:op
25/8/52

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/75.

FROM

Chancery
Amman
to E Dept.

No. 18204/28.

Dated 27-8-52.

Received in Registry— 5-9-52.

Resettlement

Discusses the efforts being made by the Jordan Govt. and the Arab League to persuade the refugees to accept the principle of resettlement.

Last Paper

References

EE18211/82.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 15/9

(Index) 18/10

Next Paper

(Minutes)

This is very encouraging.

E. Dept Events in Egypt may hasten the process of education. H.A. Pullar 10/9.

I. P. Dept. G.F.W. 10/9.

But the education will take a very long time.

C Watson 9/9

J.B. Richmond 9/9

CW 13/9

36062

(18204/28)

H.M.Legation,
AMMAN.

E 1826/75

CONFIDENTIAL

27th August, 1952.

E

FE 1821/12

Dear Department,

Paragraph 6 of Furlonge's letter No.18204/20 of July 24th to Ross reported the first signs of a reaction by the Jordan Prime Minister against the irresponsible agitation opposing refugee resettlement which had been worked up in Jordan during the previous two months by a combination of the Arab Higher Committee and the Communists. Since then, there have been further indications of a more sensible official attitude on this question.

2. On July 25th, for example, the Jordan Minister of Social Welfare, at a meeting on the West Bank, made a statement which was reported in the press. In it he urged the refugees to accept the professional census; extolled the Yarmuk Scheme as capable of substantially increasing the agricultural and industrial potential of Jordan; and urged his audience to cooperate with the various development schemes which were now being started. He emphasized that in so doing they would improve their material conditions without losing any of their rights, including that of returning to their original homes.

3. In the first week of August Ahmed Shuqeri, Assistant Secretary of the Arab League, visited Jordan and toured the West Bank, where he addressed the refugees in several camps and frontier villages. According to Arab Legion intelligence reports, the main themes of his addresses were:-

(a) The refugees must beware of the Communists.

(b) Demonstrations and disturbances were futile and must be avoided.

(c) The refugees must be prepared to fight for their country and must stand together, no differentiation being made between Palestinians and Jordanians.

(d) It was unrealistic to expect the United Nations to turn the Jews out of Palestine. The refugees' only hope lay in the support of the Arab nations.

(e) It was the duty of the refugees to return to and settle in Jordan, particularly the West Bank, where the population must be thickened up in order to provide a strong bulwark against Israeli aggression.

Apart from some Communist interruptions, his remarks seemed in general to have been regarded as realistic and to have been well received.

4. On August 23rd the Jordan Prime Minister, in the course of a Press Conference in Amman, took the line that constitutionally speaking there were no refugees in Jordan,

/but

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

but only Jordan citizens. It was the duty of the press to make this clear to them, in order to counteract the ill effects of irresponsible elements who were trying to perpetuate the miserable conditions of the refugees and their dependence on charity. He ended by expressing agreement with the views of "an Arab politician" (presumably Fadhil Jamali), who favoured the resettlement of all refugees in Jordan, but pointed out that Jordan's means were limited and that she would require help from all the Arab countries for this purpose.

5. These statements, and particularly the last, provide the clearest evidence we have yet seen of a recognition by an Arab Government and the Arab League of the principle of resettlement. The process of re-education of the refugees must necessarily be protracted in view of the intensive propaganda in the opposite sense to which they have for so long been subjected, but it is satisfactory to know that the process appears at least to have begun.

6. We are sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Damascus, Beirut, Cairo, Paris, Ankara and Washington.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/76

FROM

Mr Chapman-Andrews, Beirut.

No. 516.

Dated 10.9.52.

Received in Registry— 11.9.52.

Laissez passers to Libya.

Discusses the situation which is now acute as 70 refugees have received offers of employment in Libya. (add. to Benghazi)

REFERENCES

-/54

MINUTES

Shall we telegraph to Sir H. Knight for the references?

CWaterlow 11/9

I think a letter wd do, but we ought to know the background. Will you dft.

JBR 11/9

CW 15/9

Now see 177.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft) Mr Myers, Beirut for Miss Waterlow 15 Sept.

(Action completed) 24/9

(Index) 24/11

39318

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 7826/76

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman-Andrews
No. 516
10th September 1952

D. 3.58 p.m. 10th September 1952
R. 5.42 p.m. 10th September 1952

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Benghazi telegram No. 18 of 10th September
Repeated for information to Foreign Office

Following for Kirkbride from Knight.

Myers letter AC 100/9 of 4th August and Beirut telegram No. 14: N/P.

Laisser passers for Palestinian refugees. No answer yet received.

2. Situation is now acute. Through UNRWA placement service 70 Palestinian refugees have received from Point IV firm offers for employment in Libya. Of these over 30 are refugees resident in the Lebanon who can have only laisser passers.

3. UNRWA has now agreed to take up urgent resettlement in Libya and has allotted funds and staff. This was done after pressure from this delegation and if the whole plan is to be sabotaged on a passport technicality this will place us in very awkward position.

4. I should be most grateful if you could get Libyan authorities to modify their orders as soon as possible.

Foreign Office please pass Priority to Benghazi.

[Repeated to Benghazi]

DISTRIBUTED TO:-
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations (Economic and Social) Department
African Department

QQQ

EE 1826/76.

OUTFILE

Middle East Secretariat,

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

15th September, 1952.

We are glad to see from your telegram No. 516 of the 10th September that the question of resettlement of Arab refugees in Libya is now being pursued. We hope that the difficulty of the laissez passers will quickly be ironed out.

Meanwhile, we should be grateful if you could let us have copies of the correspondence to which your telegram refers and any further relevant papers since we should like to know the background and to keep in touch with future developments. It is also possible that we may be consulted or may need to weigh in on some aspect of this matter.

O.H.Myers, Esq.,
British Legation,
Beirut.

(C.Waterlow.)

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/77

FROM
Mr Ravensdale
Benghazi.

No. 165.
Dated 12.9.52
Received in Registry— 13.9.52

Admission of refugees to Libya.

Libyan policy is not likely to change except in regard to persons accepting permanent residence.

(Add. to Beirut No 76)

Last Paper.

References.

-/76

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Sir H. Knight, Beirut
from Mr Richmond.
22 Sept.

Copy) Amman
Benghazi
Cairo,
Damascus,
Bagdad.
BMEO Fayid
Tripoli 29 Sept

(Action completed.) C W 25/9

(Index.) 24/11

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

According to today's "Times", the political Committee of the Arab League has recommended that "efforts be made to resettle Palestine refugees in West Jordan & any others who wish to establish themselves in other Arab States." We might use this as an opening to try & get a general solution to the laisser passer problem. I submit a draft.

C Watalow
15/9

E. Dept
African Dept.

I fear there is small hope of the Arab League making much progress in this direction.

J. Hurll-Jones
17/9
CW 19/9

See within
A/Sir T. Rapp, Fayid to Mr Richmond
(182/38/6 of 21st Oct)

This suggestion has been shot down all round probably rightly. JWSR 28/10

31401 F.O.P.

E 1826/77

CONFIDENTIAL.

FROM BENGHAZI TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Ravensdale
No. 165
12th September, 1952.

D. 9.25 a.m. 12th September, 1952.
R. 10.42 a.m. 12th September, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Beirut telegram No. 16 of 12th September,
Repeated for information to Foreign Office
and Saving to
Tripoli.

E 516 to FO FE 1826/76

Your telegram No. 18: Palestinian Refugees.

Libyan Government have consistently refused to admit Palestinian refugees travelling on laisser passers and I see no prospect of their changing this policy except in regard to persons who are accepted as permanent residents in this country.

It is not a question of a passport technicality because a Palestinian who enters Libya on a laisser passer cannot be repatriated if he ceases to be employed whereas the holder of a national passport can.

Foreign Office please pass Beirut.

[Repeated to Beirut].

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Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations (Economic and Social) Department
African Department

CCC

18 SEP 1952

Registry
No. EE 1626/77

~~Top Secret~~
~~Secret~~
Confidential.
~~Secret~~
~~Open~~.

Draft.

Sir Henry Knight,
K.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Beirut.

FROM :
Mr Richmond.

COPY to :-
1. Amman.
2. Benghazi.
3. Cairo.
4. Damascus.
5. Bagdad.
6. B.M.E.O. (Fayid)
7. Tripoli (Libya)

E. Dept. Flwy
African Dept. 17/9
19/9

RECEIVED IN DIVISION 22 SEP 1952 SENT TO TYPE REGISTRY

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Wt. 11647 734—250m—7/51 V.P.Co. 51-8078

Middle East Secretariat,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S,W, 1.

September, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL.

According to The Times of the 15th September the Political Committee of the Arab League has recommended that "Efforts be made to resettle Palestine refugees in West Jordan, and any others who wish to establish themselves in other Arab States". N.B. This recommendation might possibly lead to Arab Governments permitting freer movement to refugees from one Arab country to another. One of the gravest difficulties in resettlement is the present distribution of the refugees in the countries contiguous to Israel. If the Arab League countries could make arrangements which would permit refugees in Lebanon, Gaza or Jordan who heard of jobs available in Syria or Iraq in connexion with the Development programme of those countries to emigrate there without passport difficulties, this would constitute a small but important step towards resettlement. At present Middle East Governments are reluctant to admit stateless persons and the Libyan Government's attitude in this matter is described in Benghazi telegram No. 16 to Beirut of the 12th September. Up to the present the Jordan Government is the only Arab Government which has agreed to give nationality to the refugees whom it is harbouring.

3. A solution of this difficulty would be provided if the Arab League Governments could agree on some form of laissez passer which would enable a refugee to enter any member State. If he managed to establish himself there, then he might apply for nationality to the country concerned. If he

/failed he could .....

failed he could return to his place in UNRWA. ration line. As an incentive to refugees who take the initiative in seeking jobs in other Arab countries, UNRWA. might guarantee to pay their passages back if they were unemployed at the end of a specified time.

4. As noted above, the difficulty has already arisen in the case of Libya. Although we realise that Libya is not a member of the Arab League, we hope they (Libyan Govt) would agree to co-operate in any arrangements on these lines which the League might approve. The problem may arise in the future in the case of Iraq if the Iraq Government implement Nuri Pasha's undertaking to Blandford to allow skilled refugee workers to come to Iraq for work on projects under the Development Board.

5. You may think it worth while to put this suggestion to the Advisory Commission and I should be glad of the comments of the posts to whom I am copying this letter. I am sending copies to the Chanceries at Cairo, Benghazi, Damascus, Amman, Bagdad and to the B.M.E.O., Fayid.

on the possibilities of injecting this idea into the deliberations of the Arab League.

(J.C.B.Richmond.)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(EE 1826/77)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

22nd September, 1952.

OUTFILE

According to The Times of the 15th September the Political Committee of the Arab League has recommended that "Efforts be made to resettle Palestine refugees in West Jordan, and any others who wish to establish themselves in other Arab States".

2. This recommendation might possibly lead to Arab Governments permitting freer movement to refugees from one Arab country to another. One of the gravest difficulties in resettlement is the present distribution of the refugees in the countries contiguous to Israel. If the Arab League countries could make arrangements which would permit refugees in Lebanon, Gaza or Jordan who heard of jobs available in Syria or Iraq in connexion with the development programme of those countries to emigrate there without passport difficulties, this would constitute a small but important step towards resettlement. At present Middle East Governments are reluctant to admit stateless persons and the Libyan Government's attitude in this matter is described in Benghazi telegram No.16 to Beirut of the 12th September. Up to the present the Jordan Government is the only Arab Government which has agreed to give nationality to the refugees whom it is harbouring.

3. A solution of this difficulty would be provided if the Arab League Governments could agree on some form of laissez passer which would enable a refugee to enter any member State. If he managed to establish himself there, then he might apply for nationality of the country concerned. If he failed he could return to his place in United Nations Relief and Works Agency ration line. As an incentive to refugees who take the initiative in seeking jobs in other Arab countries, the United Nation Relief and Works Agency might guarantee to pay their passages back if they were unemployed at the end of a specified time.

4. As noted above, the difficulty has already arisen in the case of Libya. Although we realise that Libya is not a member of the Arab League, we hope the Libyan Government would agree to co-operate in any arrangements on these lines which the League might approve. The problem may arise in the future in the case of Iraq if the Iraq Government implement Nuri Pasha's undertaking to Blandford to allow skilled refugee workers to come to Iraq for work on projects under the Development Board.

5. You may think it worth while to put this suggestion to the Advisory Commission and I should be glad of the comments of the

/posts

Sir Henry Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Beirut.

posts to whom I am copying this letter on the possibilities of injecting this idea into the future celebrations of the Arab League. I am sending copies to the Chanceries at Cairo, Benghazi, Damascus, Amman, Bagdad and to the British Middle East Office, Fayid.

(J.C.B. Richmond)

British Middle East Office
Political Division
GHQ. MELF 17.

CONFIDENTIAL

182/38/6

21st October, 1952.

E 1826/77

My dear Richmond,

Your letter EE 1826/77 of September 22nd about travel facilities for Arab refugees.

I am afraid that neither I, nor any of the persons I have spoken to on the matter during a recent tour of the Levant States, can hold out any hope that such an arrangement would be acceptable to the Arabs, while the administrative problems of UNWRA would be gravely increased. The suggestion however might prove useful as a debating point when the question of Arab refugees is under discussion at the U.N. Assembly.

Yours ever, T. C. Rapp

(T. C. RAPP)

J. C. B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/78

FROM

Mr Chapman-Andrews, Beirut

No. 530.

Dated 16.9.52

Received in Registry— 17.9.52.

Resettlement in Libya.

Lebanese Govt agree to give one year re-entry visas on refugees' laissez passers, & Point IV are offering one year contracts.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

The one year entry visas may not be much help unless UNRWA will guarantee payment of return passages.

CWatkins 18/9.

JWBR 18/9

References.

77

OT 1821/1

/2

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

See within

A) Benghazi No 181 of 20 Sept. (add. to Beirut)

CW 22/9

African Dept. 25/9

(Action completed.) 19/9

(Index.) 24/11

Next Paper.

31401 F.O.P

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 1826/78

E

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 530
16th September, 1952

D. 4.26 p.m. 16th September, 1952
R. 6.10 p.m. 16th September, 1952

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Benghazi telegram No. 19 of 16th September,
Repeated for information to: Foreign Office
and Saving to: Tripoli

Your telegram No. 16.

EE 165 to FO. 1826/77

Following from Knight.

Presumably Libyan Government will agree to accept as permanent residents, Palestinian refugees entering under resettlement scheme. Please confirm.

2. Lebanese Government agree to give one year re-entry visas on their laisser passer and Point IV are now offering one year contracts. Under these circumstances will Libya accept laisser passer?

Foreign Office please pass to Benghazi as my telegram No. 19.

[Repeated to Benghazi].

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African Department
Middle East Secretariat
Eastern Department

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E E1826/78

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FROM BENGHAZI TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir A. Kirkbride
No. 181
20th September, 1952

D. 6.23 p.m. 20th September, 1952

R. 7.44 p.m. 20th September, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Beirut telegram No. 18 of 20th September
Repeated for information to Foreign Office
and Saving to Tripoli.

E 530 to FO
FE 1826/78

Admission to Libya.

Your telegram No. 19, paragraph 1.

Your assumption is correct.

2. I think that Libyans would accept a laisser passer bearing a re-entry visa but I should prefer enquiry to the Libyan Government about this admission of point 4 personnel to be made by my American colleague.

Foreign Office please pass to Beirut.

[Repeated to Beirut].

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Middle East Secretariat
Eastern Department
Major General Lewis

PPPP

23 SEP 1952

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/79

FROM

Mr C. Andrews.
Beirut

No. 533.

Dated 17.9.52.

Received in Registry— 17.9.52.

Agreement with Syria.

Discusses the draft agreement as negotiated recently between Blandford & Syria.

RD Damascus, W. Van.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

See m -/80.
[illegible] 19/9

References.

-/80

L. Dept. [illegible] 20/9.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.) [illegible] 22/9

(Index.) [illegible] 18/10

Next Paper.

31401 F.O.P.

E7826/79

E

SECRET

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 533
17th September, 1952

D. 8.40 a.m. 17th September, 1952

R. 10.30 a.m. 17th September, 1952

PRIORITY
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 533 of 17th September
Repeated for information to Damascus
Washington

Following for Richmond from Knight.

My immediately following telegram is draft of the agreement as negotiated recently between Blandford and the Syrian Foreign Minister. ADCOM, excluding Turkish member who is in Turkey, advises acceptance. Its practical work will be subject to [gp. undec. ? last year's] projected agreement. Syria seems unlikely to sign anything more precise and no agreement could be legally enforced.

2. The agreement will be formally put to the Syrian Foreign Minister on return from Cairo, and I will assume you approve unless I hear to the contrary before 21st September.

3. It is possible Syria may rat on us as Selo, yesterday in conversation with Samuel and myself, said the proposal was not accepted. This, however, is contrary to recent promise by Shishakly.

Foreign Office pass Washington as my telegram No. 17.

[Repeated to Washington].

DISTRIBUTED TO
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

0 0 0 0

Resettlement of Arab refugees; programme of resettlement in Syria and Jordan. Code EE file 1826 (papers 56 - 79). 1952. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1947-1970 FO 371/98513. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom).